

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 ARA-11 ADP-00 AGR-20 AID-20 IGA-02 COME-00

TRSE-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 RSR-01

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R 101749 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 9858

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LA PAZ 2806

FOR AGATTACHES

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, EAID, BR, AR, CI, BL.

SUBJ: AGRICULTURE: WHEAT AND FLOUR PRICES.

1. IN VIEW OF HEAVY SUBSIDY GOB NOW BEGINNING TO PAY ON FLOUR, WE CONCERNED THAT BOLIVIAN FLOUR AND POSSIBLY WHEAT, SOME OF WHICH OF PL-480 TITLE I ORIGIN, MAY ENTER CONTRABAND TRADE AS EXPORT TO ONE OR MORE OF BORDERING COUNTRIES. (AT THE PRESENT TIME AN UNKNOWN BUT APPARENTLY SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT OF CONTRABAND FLOUR FROM ARGENTINA IS ENTERING BOLIVIA). TO TAKE THE MEASURE OF THIS PROBLEM, WE WOULD APPRECIATE FOLLOWING PRICE INFORMATION:

A. PRESENT FLOUR PRICE AT MILL;

B. WHEAT PRICE AT MILL;

C. EXPORT EXCHANGE RATE FOR WHEAT AND FLOUR;

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D. WHETHER WHEAT OR FLOUR EXPORTS PROHIBITED;

E. IMPORT EXCHANGE RATES AND IMPORT TAXES FOR WHEAT AND FLOUR; AND

F. AMOUNT OF ANY SUBSIDY ON WHEAT OR FLOUR.

2. WE WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF PRICE MOVEMENTS FROM POSITIONS ONE YEAR AGO.

3. BOLIVIAN WHEAT BOUGHT BY MILLERS SOLD AT \$ B 52 PER QUINTAL (100 LBS) AND FLOUR AT \$ B 79 YEAR AGO WHEN EXCHANGE RATE WAS \$ B 12/ US\$1.00. PRICES NOW \$ B85 AND \$ B126.50 RESPECTIVELY WITH EXCHANGE RATE AT \$ B 20/ US\$1.00. GOB NOW CONSIDERING MOVING WHEAT PRICE TO \$ B 110 WHILE MAINTAINING FLOUR PRICE. WOULD APPRECIATE OPINION ACTION ADDRESSEES AS TO WHETHER THEY THINK LIKELY BE DEMAND IN THEIR HOST COUNTRIES FOR BOLIVIAN FLOUR AT \$ B 126.50
SIRACUSA

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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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